

Smith Ranch & Grove, LC
12030 NE 224th Street
Okeechobee, FL 34972

July 22, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer control of licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding – No. 11-65).

Dear Commissioners:

Allow me to share my views on the above matter.

The problems experienced by our country when it comes to investment and job creation have perhaps never been greater. In the face of the latest recession, the unemployment rate is growing along with the number of people dropping out of the workforce.

The government should encourage businesses to invest in new ideas and infrastructure. For example, I can think of no better initiative than upgrading our wireless, high-capacity networks, in a way that will not cost the government a dime. Best of all, no stimulus or bailout funds are needed.

AT&T and T-Mobile are healthy companies, but separately neither possesses the resources to deploy the next generation of networks to the scale our country needs. Together, they can – and make no mistake about it, our nation's commercial future is directly linked to our commitment to mobile broadband infrastructure.

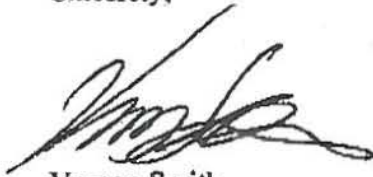
Chairman Genachowski said it best: "Few things have greater potential to unleash the ingenuity of America's small-business owners than driving world-leading broadband deployment and adoption." (*The Hill*, 9/17/10)

I fully agree with the chairman.

Smartphones are replacing computers. More and more mobile devices are hooking onto networks that are already overloaded. It will take financially secure and operationally capable companies to upgrade them. That is why I believe the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile is the right thing at the right time.

I hope you will take some of these views into account as you consider their application for merger and, ultimately, approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vernon Smith', with a stylized, flowing script.

Vernon Smith
Managing Partner of Smith Ranch & Grove
Okeechobee, FL

Cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio
The Honorable Tom Rooney